wish. Nothing has happened ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: There is a sword hanging over our heads.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: That is right. There is a sword hanging. That means, the Government should take this into consideration as soon as possible.

The judgement has come only recently.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: In the meantime, the jute industry is not examining other aspects of application.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, I would like to put a question. Would this not affect very seriously the position of three crore people in the country who are dependent on jute? You simply cannot take away the livelihood of three crores of people because the cement industry will be making less money. As far as cement industry is concerned, for ten years they have flouted the decision of the Government. They have flouted the court of law. My question is, what action is the Government going to take against the cement industry for llouting the order? I would also like lo know whether syncthetic bags are not environmentally-unfriendly? As far as I know jute bags are hio-degradable; synthetic bags are not. *{Interruptions)* If synthetic bags are used, they are unfriendly to the environment. *(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of a Private Sector Refinery

*403. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any proposal from PRA Petrochemical Limited for the setting up of private sector refineries, as 100% export oriented unit and if so, the details thereof including the date on which it was received;

(b) how many times the projects had been considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board alongwith the reasons for not according approval in this regard;

(c) by when it is proposed to be approved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The promoters of M/s. P.R.A. Petorchemicals Ltd. had filed an application for a 10 MMTPA Oil Refinery Project under the 100% EOU Scheme in October, 1994, which was considered by the FIPB and was rejected vide letter dated 3-2-95 on the ground of low value addition. M/s. P.R.A. Petrochemicals Ltd. has subsequently submitted an application dated 29-10-96 with fresh facts for setting up a 9.5 MMTPA Oil Refinery in Andhra Pradesh under the 100% EOU Scheme.

The proposal has been under consideration of FIPB which will make its recommendation as soon as the Inter-Ministerial consultations are completed.

World Bank Assistance for improving Environment and Rehabilitation of displaced persons

*405. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of World Bank assistance for improving environment and rehabilitation of displaced persons in coal mines;

(b) when was this assistance offered by the World Bank;

(c) whether there is any delay on the part of Coal India Limited on finalising the tenders for the above work; and

(d) if so, the time by which these proposals will he finalised by Coal India Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANT! SINGH): (a) and (b) The World Bank has approved Coal Sector Environment and Social Mitigation Project (ESMP) in June, 1996. The project is to be implemented over 5 years and with an estimated project cost of US $ 84 million out of which International Development Association will finance US $ 63 million as a credit. The balance US $ 21 million will be financed by Coal India Ltd. The project has Ihrec components:— (i) Environment

(ii) Resettlement and Rehabilitation

(iii) Community Development

(e) There had been initial delay in finalised the tenders. However, the pace of work has been accelerated recently and project is expected to follow the schedule.

(d) The project implementation plan gives the detailed schedule of different works. There are over 800 contracts in this project to be finalised during the project's life span. The proposals will be finalised as per the schedule.

Physical Targets for Drilling, Mining and value for MECL

*407. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the physical targets for drilling, mining and value for the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) for the last three years;

(b) whether these targets were completed;

(c) the reasons for the dismal performance of MECL; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase the efficiency of MECL?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The Physical Targets for drilling, miring and value for the last three years are as under:

Year	Drilling (in mts)	Mining (in mts)	Value of work/ Turnover Rs. in lakhs.
1994-95	2,00,000	4,000	4,128
1995-96	2,25,000	4,000	5,102
1996-97	2,25,000	3,500	4,668

(b) Targets were not achieved.

(c) The main reasons for non-achievements of the targets by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) are as follows:

(i) Reduction in Budgetary support to MECL, for promotional work from the Government.

(ii) Setting up of parallel exploration facilities by many clients, like. Coal India Limited. Neyvelly Lignite Corporation, National Aluminium Company Limited, etc.

(iii) In the Liberalised economic scenario, competition increased since number of renowned international Companies opened then offices in India and number of small Indian Companies started similar activity in the private sector.

(iv) Due to reduction in budgetary support from the Government, the Company could not find adequate funds for proper maintenance of machinery and replacement of old drills.

(v) Idling of resources due to reduction in job for MECL from its many clients.

(d) Following steps have been taken to increase efficiency of MECL:

The Government constituted an Expert Committee for suggesting a Revival Plan for MECL. The Expert Committee has made 22 recommendation to make the Company economically viable. The Company has made following Plans for its revival on the aforesaid report:—

(i) *Short-terms Plans*

- Major thrust on work generation.
- improving productivity of drills by strengthening the Projects by posting senior officers with adequate delegation of powers and supporting staff at Projects sites. - improving maintenance of equipment.
- timely supply of spares.
- daily monitoring of the progress.
- emphasis on human resource development, to boost morale of the employees by way of promotion to stagnating personnel and imparting regular training.

(ii) *Medium-term Plans:* Contact has been made with the Various Development clients by creating a separate Planning and Business Development Division and diversification into new areas like, consultancy services, remote sensing.